

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 23, 2004 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 13, 23 and 25 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 13-30 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement was submitted on July 30, 2004. Upon review of the returned Form 1449, it appears that a reference listed under "Other Documents" was inadvertently not initialed. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner kindly return a completed initialed copy of the Form 1449 with the next communication.

Examiner Interview

Applicants' below signed representative conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Prasad on September 7, 2004. The interview was directed toward the rejection of claims 13-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. It was agreed that the present amendments would address the Examiner's concerns related to this rejection. The Examiner also agreed that the present amendments would not raise new matter issues. The Examiner is sincerely thanked for his time and comments in the discussions of this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 13-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claim 13, 23 and 25 to advance this application to allowance.

The Examiner asserts that the specification only describes a method of use. It is noted that the method of using the ferrule polishing fixture is in manufacturing fiber optic connectors. In other words, the fixture is USED to make or manufacture ferrules of fiber optic connectors. For example, mounting or holding a ferrule is one step in the manufacturing process of a fiber optic connector; polishing is another step in the

manufacturing process. Specification, page 3, lines 4-5. After the claimed portion of the manufacturing process (i.e. holding and polishing) is completed, "the process can be repeated on a subsequent batch of fiber optic connectors." Specification, page 11, lines 12-13.

Each of claims 13, 23, and 25 recites a method of using a fixture or device to manufacture a fiber optic connector. The below table illustrates the support for each of the recited limitations of claims 13-30.

claim 13 a)	support, for example, found on:	page 3, lines 4-8
b)		page 8, lines 5-11
c)		page 8, lines 14-15
d)		page 8, lines 24-26
claim 14	support, for example, found on:	page 4, lines 5-10
claim 15	support, for example, found on:	page 5, lines 5-9
claim 16	support, for example, found on:	page 5, lines 11-17
claim 17	support, for example, found on:	page 4, lines 12-13
claim 18	support, for example, found on:	page 5, lines 11-17
claim 19	support, for example, found on:	page 5, lines 7-9
claim 20	support, for example, found on:	page 4, lines 26-27
claim 21	support, for example, found on:	page 3, lines 25-26
claim 22	support, for example, found on:	page 8, lines 28-30
claim 23	support, for example, found on:	page 4-5; lines 26-3
claim 24	support, for example, found on:	page 3, lines 25-26
claim 25	support, for example, found on:	(see claim 13)
claim 26	support, for example, found on:	page 5, lines 5-9
claim 27	support, for example, found on:	page 4, lines 12-13
claim 28	support, for example, found on:	page 5, lines 11-17
claim 29	support, for example, found on:	page 3, lines 25-26
claim 30	support, for example, found on:	page 8, lines 28-30

Applicants have presented claims related to a portion of a manufacturing process that is novel. The novel portion claimed relates to holding and polishing steps involved in manufacturing fiber optic connectors. Applicants respectfully submit that the specification provides clear support for a method of manufacturing, as recited in claims 13-30.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of claims 13-30.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-12 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,718,111. Applicants respectfully note that claims 1-12 were cancelled in a previously filed amendment.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 13-30) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

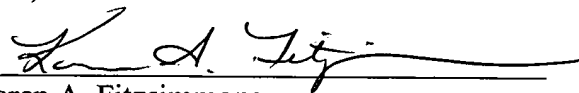
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



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